

tion on the affirmative vote of a majority of Council members in office, and the Secretary shall be a career position under the Merit System, subject to removal by the Council in accordance with the Personnel Regulations. Other employees of the Council shall be appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Council and shall be career merit system appointments.

#### 16.2 *Non-Merit and Advisory Council Appointments.*

Appointment of members of boards and commissions directly advisory to the County Council, members of the County Personnel Board and other persons who under the Charter are to be appointed directly by the Council, shall be appointed for such terms and for such compensation, if any, and in such manner as shall be prescribed by the Charter or by law; otherwise, as the Council by resolution shall determine. The affirmative vote of a majority of members in office shall be required for any appointment.

#### 16.3 *Confirmation of Executive Appointments.*

When any vacancy exists for the Chief Administrative Officer the County Attorney, the head of a department, office or agency of the Executive Branch, or when any vacancy exists on any board or commission to be appointed by the County Executive, the County Executive will within the time prescribed for filling such vacancy, if any, submit to the Council for confirmation the name of a qualified person to fill such vacancy, together with such written material as he shall desire, describing the qualifications of such person. Merit System Personnel Regulations shall be followed for persons nominated by the Executive for appointments as heads of offices and agencies. The County Council shall act within thirty days, by resolution, to confirm or disapprove the appointment. The affirmative votes of a majority of Council members in office shall be required for confirmation. If the appointment is not confirmed, the County Executive shall promptly thereafter appoint another person to that vacancy and submit the same to the Council for confirmation.

### Section 17. *PUBLIC HEARINGS; QUORUM NOT REQUIRED.*

#### 17.1 *General.*

The rules in this section apply to public hearings held upon pending legislation, six-year programs, and the budget, and to general public hearings. Except upon declaration of an emergency by the Council, in which case a hearing may be held any time after notification to news media (Section 2.7), hearings will be held after public notice of not less than fifteen (15) days by advertisement in one newspaper of general circulation in the County of the time and place of the hearing, the subject matter of the hearing and a place where copies of the matter to be heard may be obtained. Such hearings shall ordinarily be conducted in non-legislative sessions, and copies of proposed legislation shall be made available in reasonable numbers for distribution to the press and the public at the time of hearing and at the office of the Secretary prior to the hearing. A verbatim transcript shall not be taken except upon order of the President or at the request of a Council majority, or if required by law. A quorum of Council members shall not be required to conduct a public hearing, except as may be expressly required by the Zoning Ordinance or other law.

#### 17.2 *Preliminary Action.*

Upon convening the hearing, the presiding officer shall give a brief explanation of the purpose of the hearing and shall cause to be presented